

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-10

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CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 EB-07 CIEP-02

TRSE-00 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00 FEAE-00 INT-05

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7143

INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, VE

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT PEREZ CALLS FOR OAS COUNCIL MEETING
ON U.S. TRADE LAW

1. ON JANUARY 4 PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ SENT A TELEGRAM TO PRESIDENT GUILLERMO RODRIGUEZ LARA OF ECUADOR EXPRESSING FULL AGREEMENT WITH THE RECENT STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN RELATIONS OF ECUADOR CONCERNING THE UPCOMING FOREIGN MINISTER'S MEETING IN BUENOS AIRES. AN INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE MESSAGE AS REPORTED IN THE PRESS FOLLOWS:

"THE DECLARATION ISSUED BY YOUR MINISTER OF FOREIGN RELATIONS EXPRESSED CRITERIA WHICH MY GOVERNMENT AND VENEZUELA SHARE FULLY. THE NEW DIALOGUE PROPOSED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF NORTH AMERICA DOES NOT CORRESPOND TO THE DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THAT GOVERNMENT WHICH PROVIDE FOR DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT AGAINST VENEZUELA AND ECUADOR AS MEMBERS OF THE OPEC. ALSO IT THREATENS IN A DIRECT MANNER THE CURRENT LATIN AMERICAN POLICY OF DEFENDING OUR RAW MATERIALS AND BASIC PRODUCTS THROUGH THE CREATION OF COMMON TRADING SYSTEMS

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WITH RETENTION OF SUPPLIES IN ORDER TO ASSURE RENUMERATIVE

PRICES.

"THIS DECISION OF THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES, WHICH CULMINATED WITH THE PROMULGATION OF THE LAW BY THE PRESIDENT SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD AS AN INTERRUPTION OF THE DIALOGUE INITIATED AT THE CONFERENCE OF TLATELOLCO, INASMUCH AS IT CONSTITUTES A CLEAR ACT OF ECONOMIC AGRESSION AND POLITICAL PRESSURE. MOREOVER, THE DECISION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE CHARTER OF AMERICAN STATES, OF WHICH WE ARE SIGNATORIES, SINCE ON THE CONTRARY, IT VIOLATES VARIOUS ARTICLES AND, GENERALLY THE PRINCIPLES WHICH INSPIRED IT.

"CONVINCED AS WE ARE, YOUR GOVERNMENT AND MINE, OF THE NECESSITY OF STRENGTHENING THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM WHICH TODAY SUFFEST SUCH A SEVERE BLOW, A MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS OUTSIDE THE OAS WOULD NOT BE CONVENIENT NOR DO I CONSIDER THAT IT WOULD SERVE THE ABOVE PURPOSE. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT WOULD SERVE THE INTEESTS OF THE HEMISPHERE AND THE FRANTERNITY OF AMERICAN COUNTRIES TO TAKE THIS LEGITIMATE AND SEROUS CONCERN TO THE SEAT OF THE OAS IN ORDER THAT IT MIGHT BE DEBATED IN THE COUNCIL FULLY AND FRANKLY. SHOULD THIS UNJUST SITUATION PERSIST, TOGETHER WITH THE ECONOMIC THREAT AGAINST OUR LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS, IT WOULD LEAD TO A SERIOUS DETERIORATION IN INTER-AMERICAN RELATIONS AND A TOTAL RUPTURE OF THE SYSTEM WHICH, WITH ALL ITS IMPERFECTIONS AND INEFFICIENCIES, HAS CONTRIBUTED TO MAINTAINING SATISFACTORY LEVELS OF SOLIDARITY AND PEACE IN THE REGION. THE LATTER ARE NOW THREATEDNED DESPITE THE CONCILATORY AND FRATERNAL WILL OF OUR COUNTRIES WHICH SEEK ONLY RECOGNITION OF RIGHTS TO EXERCISE FULL SOVEREIGNTY OVER OUR NATUAL RESOURCES AND A BALANCED AND EQUITABLE COMMERCIAL INTERCHANGE.

"I BELIVE MR. PRESIDENT, THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO THE AMERICAN BROTHERHOOD AND TO THE CAUSE OF PROGRESS TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN REQUESTING A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE ORGANIZATION TO INITIATE FRANKLY THIS DEBATE WHICH REQUIRES THE UNITY OF AMERICA. WITH THIS THOUGH IN MIND, I WILL SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO OTHER PRESIDENTS AND CHIEFS OF STATE OF THE LATIN AMERICAN REPUBLICS, MEMBERS OF

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THE OAS."
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